



To: Town Council

Fr: Paul Bockelman, Town Manager
Guilford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works

Dt: July 8, 2021

Re: Public Way Request: North Pleasant Street Upgrades from Hallock to Triangle Street

Recommendation:

Review and approve the conceptual plan titled “Kendrick Park – Concept Plan” dated April 2, 2021 making North Pleasant Street one way, northbound, from McClellan Street to Triangle Street and add additional parking and a sidewalk on the east side of the roadway. This will include removing the tree belt on the west side of North Pleasant Street to shift existing parking to the west to reduce the impact on the existing trees on Kendrick Park.

Background:

Town Council voted on June 7th to make changes to the intersection of North Pleasant and McClellan Streets. These changes were designed to connect the neighborhoods on the west side of Kendrick Park to the park. During the presentation for this change it was noted that there are several more changes that would increase parking around the park and allow the construction of a sidewalk on the western side of Kendrick Park while maintaining the existing trees on Kendrick Park.

The Town has worked toward making improvements to Kendrick Park since the conceptual design by the Cecil Group was developed after extensive public discussion in 2010-2012. The Town has made sidewalk and lighting upgrades along the East Pleasant Street and Triangle Street sides of the park as part of other construction projects. The soon-to-be-completed playground will be the first improvement to the interior of the park and the first active use area. The playground work also includes the completion of one of several walkways across the park to tie the park to the neighboring streets.

The Cecil Group plan envisioned several new and improved crosswalks to enhance resident access to the park from the surrounding neighborhoods. The proposed roadway improvements would introduce additional traffic calming measures, reduce traffic, and create additional parking.

Proposed Changes:

The following changes are proposed:

1. Make North Pleasant Street one-way from McClellan Street to Triangle Street. This would allow for one of two improvements:
 - a. The addition of 25 on street parallel parking spaces.
 - b. Placing the park's western sidewalk in the currently paved area thus avoiding the removal or significant root damage to 10+ existing trees.
2. Remove the grass belt on the western side of North Pleasant Street from Triangle Street to Hallock Street which would allow for both 1a and 1b to be constructed and would add 7 new parallel spaces on the western side of North Pleasant Street from Hallock Street to McClellan Street. There are currently no street trees in the grass belt.

Considerations:

The construction of the new Kendrick Park playground (paid for through a major grant and Community Preservation Act funding) will create additional foot and vehicle traffic as people seek to access the major new facility.

The Town Council-approved crosswalks will provide defined, safe crossings to and from the west side of North Pleasant Street and introduces a raised intersection to promote traffic calming for vehicles traveling down North Pleasant Street or entering North Pleasant Street from McClellan Street.

Making North Pleasant Street one-way from McClellan Street to Triangle Street will provide for the opportunity to introduce traffic-calming measures, reduce traffic, and create additional parking.

